

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-357001/P10034

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. Claim amendments are presented herein to obviate the current rejection.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-23 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over McDysan in view of Moiin. Claims 5 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over McDysan in view of Moiin and Ullman. Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over McDysan in view of Moiin and Ahmed. Those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite storing data indicative of membership at a first client, at a system host, transmitting a message to each of a plurality of clients including the first client, the message including a header and a payload, the header including either a group identifier or a client identifier, the payload including a group membership file including information indicative of client group memberships and group membership expiration dates if the header is a group identifier, or a client specific payload associated with the client identifier if the header is a client identifier, updating the data indicative of membership at the first client if the message contains the group identifier and the group membership file includes data characterizing client memberships associated with the first client, and the message is received prior to a corresponding group membership expiration date, and processing the message at the first client if the message contains a client identifier associated with the first client (for support, see, inter alia,

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specification page 9, line 22 to page 11, line 18). Similar amendments were made to claims 7, 13, 18, and 21.

None of McDysan, Moiin, Ullman, and Ahmed, whether considered singly or in combination, disclose or otherwise suggest that a group membership file can include group membership expiration dates. Moreover, these references fails to disclose or suggest that updating data at a client indicative of membership is contingent on whether a corresponding message is received prior to a respective group membership expiration date as recited in claim 1. As a result, the cited references when combined, fail to teach or suggest each and every recited element.

Accordingly, each of claims 1, 7, 13, 18, 21, and their respective dependent claims should be allowable.

Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Applicant Petitions for a one-month Extension of Time. Please apply the

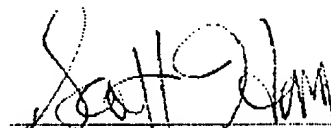
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one-month extension fee of \$120.00 and any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

5/17/06



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